CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH

"LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD"

Glen Williamson

WHERE ARE YOU HEADED? HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET THERE?

HEB. 12:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

IN ORDER TO RUN THE BEST RACE, WE NEED TO:

1. _____.

✓ Those who have _____ for us.

HEB. 12:1a Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses...

✓ Our own _____.

HEB. 12:1b …let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles…

JAMES 1:9-11 (NIV) The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower.

2. _____ into the future.

✓ Run with the ability _____.

HEB. 12:1c …and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

2 PET. 1:3 (NIV) His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

✓ Jesus is the _____ and the _____.

HEB. 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

JUDE 24-25 (NIV) To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

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Digging Deeper: Small Group Questions …

- What was the last race in which you competed? Did you enjoy the experience?
- Do you connect with the racing analogy in Hebrews 12:1? How does your life feel like a long distance race?
- Were you able to identify some things that *"weigh you down"* or *"easily entangle"* you? What can you to be free of these hindrances?
- How does someone *"fix [his/her] eyes on Jesus"* as Hebrews 12:2 describes? How might this enable you to live your life more intentionally?